

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, OAS, AR, US
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE DISTRESS OVER CARTER OAS SPEECH

BEGIN SUMMARY: ARGENTINE CONCERN WITH THE DETERIORATED
STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IS INCREASINGLY "GOING
PUBLIC". FORNMINISTER MONTES' AGGRESSIVE SPEECH IN
THE OAS AND RECENT EDITORIALS ADD TO SIGNS THAT ARGENTINA
IS SEEKING TO PLAY A MORE ASSERTIVE ROLE IN ITS RELATIONS
WITH THE US OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. EMPHASIZING
THE NEED TO BROADEN BILATERAL RELATIONS BEYOND THE
SINGLE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING,
OBSERVERS ARE POSITING ARGENTINA'S POTENTIAL PETROLEUM
AND FOOD RESOURCES AND ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AS
COUNTER-BALANCING ASSETS WHICH US POLICY MAKERS
SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. END SUMMARY.

1. ARGENTINES REGISTERED DISMAY AND DISPLEASURE WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER'S OAS SPEECH JUNE 21. LA OPINION,
NOW A GOVERNMENT MOUTHPIECE UNDER A RETIRED MILITARY
INTERVENOR, HAS PUBLISHED A SERIES OF ARTICLES
ATTACKING THE SPEECH AND CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS
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POLICY AS PRESUMPTUOUS. ON JUNE 25, UNDER THE
HEADLINE "CARTER'S PATERNALISTIC STYLE ANNOYS
LATIN AMERICA," COLUMNIST SERGIO CERON EXCERPTED
SOME OF CARTER'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY, AND CONTRASTED THEM WITH EXCERPTS
OF ARGENTINE FORNMINISTER MONTES' SPEECH ON
JUNE 23. THE CARTER STATEMENTS WERE DESCRIBED

AS "PATERNALISTIC" AND "CLOSER TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S "BIG STICK DOCTRINE" THAN THE "GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY" OF ANOTHER ROOSEVELT--FRANKLIN DELANO." THE MONTES REPLY WAS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCABLE, STATES CERON: "ARGENTINA ENERGETICALLY REJECTS THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CONTINENTAL COMMUNITY WHO ASSUME PREROGATIVES OVER THE PROBLEMS OF OTHERS AND, FURTHERMORE, WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THIS ONE, TO ESTABLISH POSITIONS DESTINED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THEIR OWN POLITICS." ELSEWHERE, MONTES COMPLAINED OF "THE REGRETTABLE POWER ABUSE EXERCISED BY SOME POWERFUL NATIONS WHO USE HUMAN RIGHTS AS THEIR SINGLE AND RESTRICTED TOPIC OF DIALOG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, USUALLY THOSE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD."

2. IN THE FACE OF US PRESSURES, ARGENTINA IS BECOMING A SPOKESMAN FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN DEMANDING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL NATIONS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR ECONOMIC OR WARLIKE POTENTIAL, CERON WROTE. "ARGENTINA HAS REJECTED THE DANGEROUS PATERNALISM IMPLICIT IN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS AND INVITES OTHER LATIN NATIONS TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SUPER-POWERS ARE NOT ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBORDINATION." TO THIS END, MONTES CALLED FOR A STRONGER SOUTH AMERICAN BLOC IN ORDER THAT LATIN COUNTRIES WILL BE TRULY LISTENED TO AND A PARTY TO A DIALOGUE, INSTEAD OF A MONOLOGUE WITH THE APPEARANCE OF A DIALOGUE.

3. CERON PUT GREAT STORE BY THE VISIT OF DR. KISSINGER TO ARGENTINA AND THE CONNECTIONS MAINTAINED BY ECONOMY MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ WITH THE ROCKEFELLER GROUP. PERHAPS, SAID CERON, THE ROCKEFELLERS UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN CARTER THE IMPORTANCE OF ARGENTINA IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, IN THE AREAS OF ITS PETROLEUM POTENTIAL, FOOD PRODUCTION, AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IN THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC. "IT IS UP TO ARGENTINA TO KNOW HOW TO INSERT ITSELF INTO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AS A PROTAGONIST AND NOT AS A SUBORDINATE."

4. COMMENT: DR. KISSINGER DURING HIS VISIT TOOK PAINS TO AVOID BEING PLACED IN POSITION OF OPENLY CRITICIZING CARTER ADMINISTRATION, BUT IT WAS

INEVITABLE THAT PRO-GOA EDITORIAL WRITERS WOULD
EXPLOIT KISSINGER'S EMPHASIS ON ARGENTINA'S
POTENTIAL AS A STRATEGIC US-ALLY IN THE EAST-WEST
CONTEXT. END COMMENT.

5. A LA NACION EDITORIAL JUNE 22 ALSO REVIEWED
THE UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS,
"WHICH ARE NOW AT A CRITICAL POINT." CITING THE
ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO THE STATE
DEPARTMENT AND UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S SUBSEQUENT
VISIT TO ARGENTINA, LA NACION SUGGESTS THAT THE
PROBLEMS HAVE GROWN MAINLY DUE TO A LACK OF
LISTENING TO WHAT IS BEING SAID. "LITTLE
ADVANTAGE CAN BE GAINED FROM BEING SORRY THAT
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CARTER PREFERS ACTION BASED ON MESSIANIC IMPULSES
OVER A DIPLOMACY BASED ON STRICT AND COHERENT
IDEOLOGICAL CONTENT." LA NACION SUGGESTS
ARGENTINA SEEK OTHER ISSUES""SUCH AS RATIFICA-
TION OF THE TLATELOLCO TREATY AND A ROLE AS A
MODERATING FORCE WITHIN THE THIRD WORLD MOVEMENT
AND THE NON-ALIGNED--TO REORIENT ITS DIPLOMACY
WITH THE US. "A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT
THE UNITED STATES WANTS FROM US MAY HELP TO VIEW
OCCASIONAL DEMANDS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN A
BROADER AND MORE FLEXIBLE MANNER, IN LINE WITH
OUR TRADITIONAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS," CONCLUDES LA NACION.
CASTRO

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